Bio®
BIOTECHNOLOGY
INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION

December 19, 2007

Ms. Connie Tipton
President and CEO
International Dairy Foods Assn.
1250 H Street, N.W., Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20005

Mr. Jerry Kozak
President and CEO
National Milk Producers Federation
2101 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 400
Arlington, VA. 22201

Mr. Tom Suber
President
U.S. Dairy Export Council
2101 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 400
Arlington, VA. 22201

Dear Ms. Tipton, Mr. Kozak and Mr. Suber:

On behalf of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), I urge the International Dairy Foods Association, the National Milk Producers Federation and the U.S. Dairy Export Council and their members to join BIO in supporting the U. S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) release of its final risk assessment, which we anticipate will appropriately confirm the safety of livestock cloning. We ask you to join us in encouraging its release as soon as possible.

The new animal tracking program announced today by two of BIO's members, ViaGen and Trans Ova Genetics, is another great step by our industry that will help locate and track animal clones in the food chain to provide additional information related to associated food products. These efforts will help promote a wider variety of choices for the world's food supply, while facilitating smooth trade transactions in the agricultural community and helping to support legitimate marketing claims.

BIO supports the clear scientific consensus as affirmed by FDA in its draft risk assessment that the food derived from clones and their offspring is as safe as any other food from livestock produced using conventional breeding or other assisted reproductive technologies. The conclusion in the draft risk assessment includes over 400 studies and is supported by over 300 scientists. This conclusion also is confirmed by two studies of the National Academy of Sciences and several international risk assessments by other countries, including France, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. Other countries are also conducting scientific assessments, including the European Union. International trading partners are using the FDA's draft risk assessment as the basis for their evaluations. The FDA's draft risk assessment is the most comprehensive evaluation of livestock cloning ever conducted in the world.

The animal tracking program and registry being undertaken by the U.S. technology providers will allow food companies to identify, track and locate animal clones. The program will help support market claims made by companies along the value chain if certain animal clones may not be desired in a particular food supply line. Therefore, the animal tracking program should help reduce international concerns, if any, regarding animal clones and their possible connection to certain exported foods. Of course, we understand that until the FDA releases their final risk assessment, it is the intention of BIO members to continue to abide by the voluntary moratorium related to food products from animal clones and their offspring.

The FDA risk assessment and the new animal tracking program also may allow for further market differentiation. Through these initiatives, technology providers can more easily provide choice for consumers, producers, processors, and retailers.

To advance all of our industries domestically and internationally, we need to support the use of sound science in the regulatory process. The growth and advancement of both the biotechnology and dairy industries has been due to this foundation in science and a strong regulatory evaluation process in the United States and export markets. In keeping with this view and to be consistent and ardent supporters of our industries, I urge you to join BIO in urging FDA to release their final risk assessment as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

James C. Greenwood
President and CEO

Cc. The Honorable Tom Harkin
The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
The Honorable Collin Peterson
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
The Honorable Chuck Conner
The Honorable Susan Schwab
Mr. Barry Jackson